History of the Georgia Tech Library with Emphasis on the Crosland Era

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Georgia Tech Library
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Outline

• Background
• Crosland and Library Buildings
• Crosland and the Library’s Collections in Science and Technology
• Crosland and Information Science
Georgia Tech - Early Campus View

The Georgia Tech, June 1899, Commencement Issue, p.5.
Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives  https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/14771
Engineering Emphasis
From the Start

Bulletin of the
Georgia School of Technology,
April 1928

Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Textile and Ceramic Engineering, Engineering Chemistry, Architecture, Commerce, General Science and Industrial Education

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/48201
Background

Dorothy Murray Crosland
(Mrs. J. Henley Crosland)
1903 – 1983

Crosland worked at the Georgia Tech Library:
• Assistant Librarian 1925-1927
• Librarian (Head) 1927-1953
• Director 1953-1971

Crosland in her office at Price Gilbert Memorial Library in 1950s. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:
http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/13100
Current Configuration: Two Library Buildings and Commons

- Crosland Tower (Graduate Library, 1969)
- Price Gilbert Memorial Library (1953)
- Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons (2011)
Early Library - Academic Building

• 1st Library space – bookcase in the office of the Head of the English Department, in the Academic Building

• 2nd Library space – part of the third floor in the Academic Building. Approved by the third Georgia Tech, President Matheson in 1899

• First Librarian – Madge Flynn. Hired in 1901 with Faculty Status

Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives: http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS064-ead/MS064-ead.xml;query=flynn;brand=default

Library, housed in the Academic Building, circa 1900. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/5807
Carnegie Library

The Carnegie Building (circa 1910)
Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archive:
http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/3901

- **3rd Library: The Carnegie Building** served as the university library from 1907-1953. During this time, the building was known as the Carnegie Library
- **Andrew Carnegie** pledged $20,000 for a library building on the campus
- **Second Librarian: Laura Hammond** (1905 – 1924). She organized a Book Shower in 1907
- **Third Librarian: Francis Newman** (1925)

Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives:
http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS064-ead/MS064-ead.xml;query=flynn;brand=default
Crosland and the Carnegie Library

- Fourth Librarian. Dorothy Murray became Librarian in 1927
- In August 1928, Dorothy married James Crosland and was known professionally as Dorothy Crosland or Mrs. J. Henley Crosland
- Pre-WWII, the library was fully occupied
- Knowles Dormitory held overflow materials

Source: [http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/VAM001-ead/VAM001-ead.xml;query=;brand=default](http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/VAM001-ead/VAM001-ead.xml;query=;brand=default)

Students study inside the Carnegie Library. Circa 1940s
Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives: [http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/3903](http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/3903)
Price Gilbert Memorial Library

- Dorothy Crosland started **campaigning** for a new library in the late **1930s**
- Price Gilbert Memorial Library was **dedicated** in November **1953** and quickly became the hub of the university

Georgia Tech Library (Gilbert Building)
Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1027
Price Gilbert Memorial Library

• Built on **highest point** on campus
• Excellent example of early modern style of Architecture
• Beautiful and AIR CONDITIONED!!!
Usage Climbs!

With the addition of more graduate programs and students in all majors, Price Gilbert Memorial Library became overcrowded a decade after its opening.

Gilbert Memorial Library. 1st floor reading room with people studying at desks. Circa 1950s. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1659
Graduate Addition

- The much needed Graduate Addition was dedicated in October 1969
- It was later renamed Crosland Towers in Dorothy Crosland’s honor in 1985

Source: http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=crosland;brand=default

Gilbert Memorial Library graduate addition, 1967.
Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives:
http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1668
Collection Growth

Growth of library collection under Crosland
1925-1971

Source: 1971 Annual Report, Georgia Tech Library
Crosland went on book buying trips to eight European countries to purchase valuable and rare scientific and technical books and journals.

“Mrs. Crosland was the first civilian librarian to visit Europe since the conclusion of the war.”

“Mrs. Crosland’s purchases will place Tech’s library among the top engineering libraries in the country.”

Sample of Periodicals Acquired During Crosland’s European Trip

Source: Box 6, Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology
http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/findi
ng-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-
ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=;brand=default
Patents, Technical Reports, Depositories

- Patent Depository Library (PDL), 1946
- Atomic Energy Commission technical reports, 1950
- NASA technical reports, 1950s
- Regional Technical Report Center, 1962

Source: Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology
Rare Books - Principia

- Crosland acquired rare and valuable scientific and technical books such as her acquisition in 1958 of a copy of the first edition of Sir Isaac Newton’s *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (London, 1687)
- The *Principia* is the cornerstone for any outstanding history of science and technology collection

Source: Rare Books, Archives & Records Management, Georgia Tech Library

http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare_books.php
Rare Books
Blaeu’s Grooten Atlas

• Crosland acquired in 1965 the nine-volume Dutch edition of Joan Blaeu’s Grooten Atlas published in the 1660s

• The Grooten Atlas features hundreds of beautiful hand-colored maps and detailed text

Source: Rare Books, Archives & Records Management, Georgia Tech Library
http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare_books.php
Blaeu’s Grooten Atlas
Africa

Photo courtesy of Katie Gentilello
Georgia Tech Library Archives
Examples of Gifts

Neely collection of medals donated by Frank H. Neely, business and civic leader in Atlanta, graduated from Georgia Tech in 1904. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives:
http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/5140
http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?query=medal&docId=ead%2FMS088-ead%2FMS088-ead.xml&chunk.id=

Gift of a Picasso vase, date 1957
Gift of Dr. Walter L. Bloom, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, July 16, 1968. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives:
http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/4390
Crosland and Information Science

- Through Crosland’s efforts, the library’s received a NSF grant to support "Programs for Training Personnel for Scientific and Technical Libraries"

- The grant resulted in two conferences on the Georgia Tech campus, attended in 1961 and 1962 by engineers, scientists, and librarians from all over the United States and parts of Europe

- Dorothy Crosland had a leading role in advancing the field of information science and helping to educate information science personnel

Sources:
Georgia Tech Annual Reports 1961-1963
Vladimir Slamecka: http://www.cc.gatech.edu/people/home/vs/cv.html

In the spring of 1964, Crosland recruited Dr. Vladimir Slamecka to head the new Information Science program. (His education was in physical sciences and logic and earned a Ph.D. in library science in 1962 from Columbia University in New York)

Crosland helped to establish the first United States master’s program in information science in 1963

This Georgia Tech School of Information Science later became School of Information and Computer Science in 1970 and then the College of Computing in 1990

Source: History of GT Computing
http://www.cc.gatech.edu/about/history
Crosland: What’s important

- Liking People
- Courage
- Conviction

Video Clip about Dorothy Crosland

Georgia Tech Alumni Living History Program

Madame Librarian: The Dorothy Crosland Story
(12 min.)

Clip of 1:08 min. Filmed September 2001
https://mediaspace.gatech.edu/id/1_lisl8d4a?width=608&height=402&playerId=32364501
Crosland’s Other Accomplishments and honors

• Played a major role in **admitting women** to Georgia Tech (1940s and 1950s). Women students were eventually admitted in 1952

• **Mentored** some of these early female students

• Contributed to **Librarianship** – scholarly articles and professional society officer

• Crosland was named **Atlanta’s Woman of the Year in Education** (1945)

• Named an **honorary alumna** by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association (1962)

• 50th Anniversary Issue of **Blue Print** yearbook was dedicated to Crosland

Source:


Fiftieth Anniversary Issue 1908-1957, The Georgia Tech Blue Print, [http://hdl.handle.net/1853/29928](http://hdl.handle.net/1853/29928)

Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology, [http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=crosland;brand=default](http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=crosland;brand=default)
Conclusions

• Crosland pushed forward agendas for the library, Georgia Tech, the broader research and education community, and the library profession

• Crosland had a passion for the Georgia Tech Library. She turned her innovative ideas into reality

• Crosland was greatly respected and appreciated locally and nationally

• Crosland stated “I leave behind two magnificent buildings, one of the finest collections in scientific and technical literature to be found in any library and a staff unequalled anywhere.” (1970-1971 annual report)

Source: “One of the Boys” Georgia Tech Alumnus, July-August 1971, p. 14
Acknowledgements

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• David Rawles Cayll – BCE 1976 – copying DVD to digital format
The majority of the references are from Dorothy M. Crosland Papers, Georgia Tech Archives

For a complete list of references, see “History of the Georgia Tech Library, with Emphasis on the Crosland Era”
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Questions?

Thank you!